

(b) the basis on which private persons, not being Members of Parliament or officers of the Government are appointed to these Delegations and their team of advisers?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). The information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 6.]

#### TEA INDUSTRY IN KANGRA

\*28. Shri Bheekha Bhal: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sad plight of tea growers of Kangra District in the Punjab;

(b) the action that has been taken for the development of tea industry in the said District; and

(c) whether Government have received any representation in respect of the development of the industry from the teagrowers of that area?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The difficulties of the Tea Industry in Kangra District are due mainly to fragmentation of holdings leading to uneconomic and scattered units and crude methods of cultivation and manufacture of tea. The State Government was requested in as early as 1952 to take remedial measures. The State Government has recently prepared a scheme and has requested the Tea Board for financial assistance for implementation of the scheme. The matter is under consideration of the Tea Board.

#### STARCH

\*29. Shri Ibrahim: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for increasing the indigenous production of starch besides putting a complete ban on its imports?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): There is already adequate capacity in the country for the

manufacture of starch. No special steps are necessary in this direction.

#### BHAKRA NANGAL PROJECT

\*30. Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the work done till the 30th September, 1954 on the excavations of canals in Rajasthan and PEPSU State on Bhakra Nangal Project;

(b) the amount sanctioned for this work;

(c) the amount spent so far; and

(d) by what time the work will be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Rajasthan 66 per cent. and PEPSU 40 per cent. of the estimated total quantity of work.

(b) Rajasthan	..	Rs. 95.5 lakhs
PEPSU	..	About Rs. 412 lakhs
(c) Rajasthan	..	Rs. 63 lakhs
PEPSU	..	About Rs. 94 lakhs
(d) Rajasthan	..	In 1957-58
PEPSU	..	New canals by May 1955 and remodelling of canals by old end of 1958.

#### NEWSPRINT

\*31. Shri Mahodaya: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state when India is expected to be self-sufficient in respect of newsprint in particular and paper in general?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The Indian Paper and Paper Board industry excluding Newsprint has an existing capacity of 1,73,700 tons and the 1954 production of paper and paper boards other than newsprint is estimated to exceed 1,40,000 tons. As a result of the implementation of the schemes for expansion of existing units and installation of new units, the